# Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR State Clearinghouse Acknowledgement Letter



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



DIRECTOR

DIME CHEMONOROUS MAD I MAN

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2007

Tina Robinson California Department of Parks and Recreation 8885 Rio San Diego Drive San Diego, CA 92108

Subject: Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan

SCH#: 2006061092

Dear Tina Robinson:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on August 20, 2007, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely.

Terry Roberts

Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

# Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR State Clearinghouse Acknowledgement Letter

### **Document Details Report** State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2006061092

Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan Project Title

Parks and Recreation, Department of Lead Agency

Type EIR Draft EIR

To meet the requirements set forth is Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 4332, Description

Title 14 of the California Administration Code, California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing a General Plan for the Park. The Plan will delineate a number of resource management zones, as well as develop goals and guidelines for each zone; the document will guide park management, specific project management, and implementation. These goals and guidelines will address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities an constraints; consistent with the classification of State Historic Park, as set forth in Section 5019.59 of the Public

Resources Code and with Department Resource Management Directives.

**Lead Agency Contact** 

Name Tina Robinson

California Department of Parks and Recreation Agency

(619) 220-5300

Phone email

8885 Rio San Diego Drive Address

City San Diego State CA Zip 92108

Fax

**Project Location** 

County Los Angeles, Ventura

City Simi Valley

Region

Devonshire, Old Santa Susanna Pass Road, Topanga Canyon Boulevard, and Lilac Lane **Cross Streets** 

Parcel No.

Base Section Township Range

Proximity to:

Highways 118 and 27

**Airports** 

Southern Pacific

Railways Chatsworth Reservoir Waterways

Multiple K-12, Elementary, Middle Schools Schools

Land Use The Park is classified as a State Historic Park. No previous General Plan has been prepared.

Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Public Services; Project Issues

Recreation/Parks; Septic System; Solid Waste; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Wetland/Riparian;

Wildlife: Landuse; Cumulative Effects; Aesthetic/Visual

Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Forestry and Fire Reviewing Protection; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Agencies

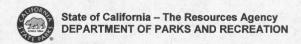
Caltrans, District 7; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Native American Heritage

Commission; Public Utilities Commission

Start of Review 07/03/2007 Date Received 07/03/2007

End of Review 08/20/2007

# Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park GP/EIR Los Angeles County Acknowledgement Letter



### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SANTA SUSANNA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK GENERAL PLAN

Date: July 2, 2007

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations and Individuals

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. CDPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park in and near the boundary of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT</u>: To meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 4332, Title 14 of the California Administration Code, California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing a General Plan for the Park. The Plan will delineate a number of resource management zones, as well as develop goals and guidelines for each zone; the document will guide park management, specific project management, and implementation. These goals and guidelines will address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities and constraints; consistent with the classification of *State Historic Park*, as set forth in Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code and with Department Resource Management Directives.

Due to the relatively small size of the Park, the Plan will provide specific direction regarding trail location and several facilities. Further, the Plan will provide goals and guidelines for the appropriate types, locations, and designs of facilities that may be proposed in the future; which may include new parking areas, campgrounds, a visitor center, interpretive kiosks, restrooms, and other visitor amenities. The General Plan will establish primary themes for interpretive programs and activities. The General Plan may also indicate direction for cooperative planning and joint-use projects with adjacent parks or transportation agencies.

Current facilities within the Park only include trails and signage; however, the Park is located adjacent to local parks which provide access into the State Park as well as varying visitor support facilities. Resources within the Park include significant and varied historic resources, significant archaeological resources, and significant wildlife corridors, riparian habitats, upland habitats, and varied wildlife that may not describe sensitive species.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

07 0026494

ON JUL 26 2007 UNTIL AUG 2 7 2007

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

JUL 2 6 2007

CONNY B. MCCORMACK, COUNTY CLERK

L. ARTERBERRY DEPUTY

DPR 509A (New 4/2003)(Word 2/11/2005)

1-1 CDPR thanks you for your support for the General Plan.
Additionally, CDPR appreciates you support for requesting additional ranger staff at SSPSHP.

STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 942849 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0038 (916) 319-2038 FAX (916) 319-2138

DISTRICT OFFICE 23734 VALENCIA BLVD., SUITE 303 SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355 (661) 286-1565 FAX (661) 286-1408





COMMITTEES:

VICE CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

August 8, 2007

Tina Robinson
Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego, CA 92108

Re: Environmental Impact Report - Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan

Dear Ms. Robinson:

The purpose of this letter is to express my general support for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan. I applaud you and the California Department of Parks and Recreation's dedication for drafting this detailed and well done report.

Santa Susana State Park is a jewel in my District offering open space and recreation opportunities between the Cities of Los Angeles and Simi Valley and their various communities. I support any endeavor that your Department undertakes to improve the park including the drafting of the master plan. I also would like to work with the Department for any future improvements to the park such as the staffing of a full time park ranger.

Once again, I support the EIR for Santa Susana State Park and pledge to support the Department when possible. Please contact my office at (661) 286-1565 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CAMERON M. SMYTH Assembly Member, 38<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Ms. Laurie Dagger

CMS:jrd

Printed on Recycled Paper

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- 2-1 Please note that CDPR conducted site surveys and record searches during the preparation of the Resources Inventory and the SSPSHP Preliminary General Plan/DEIR. A summary of the conclusions of the archaeological investigations is located on pages 25 and 35-38 of the SSPSHP Preliminary General Plan/DEIR. Appendix G of the SSPSHP Preliminary General Plan/DEIR contains the full Archaeological Resources Inventory Report including record search and consultation information. Using the data gathered during this investigation, CDPR developed the goals and guidelines to protect cultural resources shown on pages 69-71 of the SSPSHP Preliminary General Plan/DEIR. Because the project is a tiered EIR, all future development proposed under the plan will undergo additional environmental review for management plans or construction projects. At that time, CDPR would prepare all appropriate environmental documentation for archaeological resources.
- 2-2 The CDPR Resource Management Directives and the California State Parks Cultural Resources Management Handbook outline policies concerning Native American consultation. These policies include the determination of the most likely descendants, the procedures for gaining their participation on projects, and their advice about collections issues such as repatriation. The list of local Native Americans appropriate to the Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park was previously obtained from NAHC by CDPR State Archaeologists. Consultation with those listed was carried out during both the Resources Inventory and General Plan. Native American input will also be solicited on future planning efforts at the Park.
- 2-3 Please refer to pages 109-110 of the SSPSHP Preliminary General Plan/DEIR. Mitigation CR-1 specifically addresses potential archaeological sites and buried cultural remains. It is anticipated that development in the Park would avoid known sensitive cultural resources.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Amold Schwarzenegger, Governor

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 (916) 653-6251 Fax (916) 657-5390 Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov e-mail: ds\_nahc@pacbell.net



July 23, 2007

Ms. Tina Robinson

# **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

**Southern Service Center** 

8885 Rio San Diego Drive San Diego, CA 92108



Re: <u>SCH#2006061092</u>; <u>CEQA Notice of Completion; draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Santa Susanna Historic State Park Preliminary General Plan/EIR Project; Los Angeles/Ventura Counties, California</u>

Dear Ms. Robinson

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. The Native American Heritage Commission is the state's Trustee Agency for Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per CEQA guidelines § 15064.5(b)(c). In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action: 'Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS). Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/1068/files/IC%20Roster.pdf The record search will determine:

If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.

If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.

If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

√ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure.

 The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

\* A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: <u>USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation</u> with name, township, range and section;

The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE).

√ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
- √ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.
  - \* CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the

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# CL2-3 Cont.

NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated

grave liens.

\( \text{Health and Safety Code } \) \( \text{Tode} \) \( \text{Footnotes Code } \) \( \text{Soons of Soons of Soon

V Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in § 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines, when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

11

Dave Singleton Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

PS: This is an Area of Potential Effect (APE) where there have been accidental discoveries of Native American human remains; in addition, the Park has suffered vandalism by those seeking Native American artifacts.

Therefore, it is a culturally-sensitive project area. DS

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

3-1 The majority of the trails in SSPSHP are existing trails and the railroad right of way bisects the Park with both open rail and a tunnel. Several trails are proposed for closure but one new trail is proposed to cross the railroad right of way over the tunnel. This would be the only connection to Chatsworth Park North and was requested by trail stakeholders. It would not be an at-grade crossing. CDPR will coordinate with RCES and SCRRA for permission prior to final approval and construction of the proposed trail.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90013



August 3, 2006

Tina Robinson California Department of Parks and Recreation 8885 Rio San Diego Drive San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Re: SCH# 2006061092; Santa Susana Pass Historic Park Preliminary General Plan/EIR

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has jurisdiction over the safety of highway-rail crossings (crossings) in California. The California Public Utilities Code requires Commission approval for the construction or alteration of crossings and grants the Commission exclusive power on the design, alteration, and closure of crossings.

The Commission Rail Crossings Engineering Section (RCES) is in receipt of the *Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal-Draft EIR* from the State Clearinghouse. RCES staff has concerns with the potential railroad impacts as a result of the project's proximity to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Ventura Subdivision line (not Southern Pacific Railroad, as stated in the document). In addition to SCRRA's Metrolink commuter trains, the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) operate freight and passenger trains over this line.

The Draft EIR project description mentions plans for pedestrian trails. If the Department proposes any trails next to the right of way, the applicant should arrange a diagnostic meeting with RCES and SCRRA to discuss appropriate fencing and signage to keep trail users off of the railroad right of way and, if necessary, file a GO88-B request for authority to modify an atgrade crossing.

Please advise us on the status of the project. If you have any questions in this matter, please contact me at (213) 576-7078 or at <a href="mailto:rxm@cpuc.ca.gov">rxm@cpuc.ca.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

3-1

Rosa Muñoz, PE Utilities Engineer

Rail Crossings Engineering Section Consumer Protection & Safety Division

C: Rob Harris, SCRRA

**4-1** CDPR notes your comment and will coordinate with SC Edison should any SCE facilities need to be relocated.



County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works P. O. Box 1460 900 S. Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

July 16, 2007

Attention:

Planning Department

Subject:

4-1

Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park

Please be advised that the division of the property shown on Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park will not unreasonably interfere with the free and complete exercise of any facilities and/or easements held by Southern California Edison Company within the boundaries of said map.

This letter should not be construed as a subordination of the Company's rights, title and interest in and to said easement(s), nor should this letter be construed as a waiver of any of the provisions contained in said easement(s) or a waiver of costs for relocation of any affected facilities.

In the event that the development requires relocation of facilities, on the subject property, which facilities exist by right of easement or otherwise, the owner/developer will be requested to bear the cost of such relocation and provide Edison with suitable replacement rights. Such costs and replacement rights are required prior to the performance of the relocation.

If you have any questions, or need additional information in connection with the subject subdivision, please contact me at (714) 934-0808.

Steven D. Lowry

Title and Real Estate Services

Corporate Real Estate Department

14799 Chestout St.

Westminster, CA 92683

cc: CDPR

14799 Chestnut Street Westminster, CA 92683

# CDPR Response – Comment Letter 5

- **5-1** Please see Master Response 1
- **5-2** Please see Master Response 3
- **5-3** Please see Master Responses 1 & 3. Additionally, Powerhouse Road is an easement road used and maintained by others for vehicle access, including SC Edison. CDPR does not have the right to exclude this easement access. Since Powerhouse Road is currently used by both the public for trail access and due to topographical constraints, a small parking lot is proposed across from the Rockpointe Condominiums. The only change would be that the public may have vehicular access along Powerhouse Road as far as the parking lot during daylight hours. The gate at the far end of Powerhouse Road would be locked at night. This is necessary due to the site's topography and that the access at Jeffery Mark Court was closed at the request of the Rockpointe Homeowners Association. It is anticipated that traffic using the Powerhouse Road within the Park would be very light and that it will also continue to be used as a trail. Most of the trails (please refer to Figure 5 in the General Plan) are multi-use except for a few areas that were limited to hiking only due to topographical and resource constraints.
- **5-4** Please see Master Response 2

# PETITION

# TO ABANDON THE SANTA SUSANA STATE PARK PLAN

[Contact: "Citizens Concerned About the Santa Susana State Park Project" at 818-772-7124]

5-1

In response to the proposed development plan for the Santa Susana State Park, circa 2006, the undersigned taxpayers, stakeholders and homeowners do hereby petition the California Department of Parks and Recreation to completely discontinue and abandon the proposed development plan, forthwith.

The abandonment of this plan includes

5-2 5-3

- 1) Vehicular or pedestrian access from Jeffrey Mark Ct., Larwin Ave., Andora Av., and Lilac Ln.;
- Construction of any new buildings, parking lots or bathroom facilities adjacent to Rockpointe's existing homes;
- 3) Use or improvement of the "Powerhouse Rd.";
- 4) Separation of pedestrian and equestrian trails;
- 5) Establishment of campgrounds, or the use of campfires or barbeques.

All adults (at least 18 years of age) in the household may sign

Marryl Outogest Name (Signature)

MERRYL ARBOGASI
Name (please print)

Name (signature)

Name (please print)

Name (signature)

Name (please print)

10530-4 LARWIN Ave

Charsworth, Ch. 9/3// City, State, Zip

818-772-4361

Telephone number

етерионе пишьег

Additional petitions are available in the Rockpointe office.

Mail to: Moti Bogler

22560-3 Jeffrey Mark Ct. Chatsworth CA 91311

# CDPR Response – Comment Letter 6

- **6-1** Please see Master Response 5
- **6-2** Please see Master Response 6
- **6-3** Please see Master Response 5
- **6-4** Please see Master Response 2
- **6-5** Please see Master Response 1

To: California Department of Parks and Recreation Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator

We, the undersigned want to voice our concerns regarding the proposed development of property at the Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park. Presently, the Preliminary General Plan/DEIR is open for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning July 5, 2007. The Plan is set to include proposals for new parking areas, campgrounds, a visitor center, interpretive kiosks, restrooms, and other visitor amenities.

The Santa Susanna Pass State Historic Park sits on the edge of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Both the Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's

Departments presently lightly patrol the area. Despite the low public traffic in the area, there is a tremendous amount of graffiti both on the signage and properties outside the park as well as the mountainside. The Park is not currently maintained adequately but has had the virtue of being lightly traveled. Higher traffic in the area will condemn the varied and significant historic resources, significant archaeological resources, significant wildlife corridors, riparian habitats, upland habitats, and varied wildlife that may include sensitive species.

Pedophiles, vagrants and gangs are known to visit the park according to sources within the neighborhood watch report. One police officer cannot routinely address this entire region adequately at present and would be utterly overwhelmed if there were multiple accesses to the Park.

Campsites would require 24-hour supervision and patrol that realistically our city nor our state can provide at this time. The annual fire risk that exists within this area has never had the factor of campsites added to it. Although in the General Plan it appears that no major fire occurred between 1993 and 2003 with the last being the 2005 fire, we are all aware of environmental conditions that are making drought and extreme fire risks a routine. The properties that surround the State Park are deemed high fire zones with insurance virtually unattainable for many living in the area. We do not need campsites in this area that will virtually always be at high risk.

Finally, we are often under the impression that by doing something we will necessarily improve it. As stated on its government Website, "the park offers panoramic views of the rugged natural landscape as a striking contrast to the developed communities nearby". Campsites, restrooms, and kiosks

6-4

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(cont'd)

are not part of a natural landscape. Please stop improving our parks in this way. Those citizens that want to experience nature shall come regardless of the amenities.

Signed,

Name:

Jacob Simply D 19730 CACTUS AVE GLMURPH YMI) @ MSN. COM

E-mail:

Name: Christophen Murphy

Address: 9730 caches Are chatsworth ca,

E-mail: Murphy ck & notmail-com

Name: Les Lampert Address: 22730 Dale Ct. Chatsant, CA9811

E-mail: Les Lamport & colorg raphics, com

Linda Lampest 2730 Dale Court Chubwith 91311 Name: Address:

E-mail:

Name: BORIS TLEBIOJURTSCHYK

Address: 9716 ANDORA AVE CHATSWORTH CA91311

E-mail:

Name: JUDITH & LEBID JURTSCHYK Address: 9716 ANDORA AVE CHATSWORTH CA 91311

E-mail:

Name: RONALD Chase

Address: 9803 CACTUS AVE CHASSWINGH, CA 91311

E-mail: R CHASE & TWC AVIATION, Com

Name:

4803 CACKS ALL CHATSWORK CA 913/1 Address:

E-mail: